

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1 - 5. (canceled).

6. (currently amended): A tire wherein a reinforcing layer comprising a rubber-based composite material ~~according to claim 1~~ is between a carcass layer and a sidewall, said rubber-based composite material comprising:

a non-woven fabric;

a coating of a metal or metallic compound reactable with sulfur, the coating being formed on the surface of filaments constituting the non-woven fabric by a physical vapor deposition (PVD) method or a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) method; and

a rubber that adheres to the coating forming a continuous layer and covering the non-woven fabric.

7. (new): The tire according to claim 6, wherein the metal or metallic compound reactable with sulfur is cobalt or an oxide of cobalt.

8. (new): The tire according to claim 6, wherein a sputtering method is used as the physical vapor deposition (PVD) method.

9. (new): The tire according to claim 8, wherein the sputtering method is a magnetron sputtering method.